

Launch Höfer Goods (Höfer Waren) and Photoexhibition

Village Fete Höfen

Saturday 30 September 2006 from 14.00 to 18.00

Sunday 1 October 2006 from 10.00 to 18.00

Community Hall Höfen, Upper Frankonia, Germany

Höfer Goods is a long-term art project and will be launched as part of the Village Fete in Höfen on the first weekend of October 2006. The project was initiated by the artist Kathrin Böhm in 2004, in collaboration with the women living in Höfen and the London based product designer Angelika Seeschaf.

Höfer Goods is a new product series which is rooted in narratives, materials and skills that are particular to the village. **Höfer Goods** offers a space to consider village production today and to translate and transform existing resources into new products. During the next couple of years this will lead to a new series of goods that are unique to Höfen, combining narratives and knowledge from the past with ideas and product design methods from the present.



Material Collage Workshop



Angelika Seeschaf



Butterstamp Prototype

It was important, that in the first year of the project the link between village and product would be obvious. The villagers are called "the frogs", related to a frog pond next to village. The pond doesn't exist anymore, but the nickname remains. The first series of Höfer Goods will relate to frogs and frog stories, both literally and more abstract. We chose porcelain as the material for the first products because of its high production value and a regional link to porcelain manufacturing.

The products will be revealed during the launch and on www.myvillages.org.

An exhibition of more than 200 photographs that show Höfen and village life throughout the last 100 years will be on display parallel to the product launch.

Höfer Goods is part of the **ourvillages** series initiated by **myvillages.org**, where artists return their own villages to kick start an run a new project that relates to the village both as a place for contemporary art practice and a social place of origin.

myvillages.org

myvillages.org is an artist initiative by Antje Schiffers (Ger), Wapke Feenstra (NL) and Kathrin Böhm (UK/Ger). Since its launch in 2002 myvillages.org has set up a number of projects and events that act as a network and platform for art projects in the rural environment, such as *ourvillages* (2002 and 2006), *Village Convention* together with General Public Agency in Ditchling, UK (2005), *Bibliobox* (since 2005 (www.bibliobox.org) and *Why we left the village and came back*, Shrewsbury, UK Nov 2006 - Jan 2007.

For more information about my villages.org please visit www.myvillages.org. If you want to join the mailing list or get in contact please e-mail to info@myvillages.org.

For more information about **Höfer Goods** contact Kathrin@publicworksgroup.net.